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Title: Need to declare Chandraketugarh in Berachampa near Deganga, Barasat a place of national heritage.

DR. KAKOLI GHOSH DASTIDAR (BARASAT): Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise a very important issue pertaining to my constituency.

Heritage is our pride, heritage is our sentiment. I would like to bring to the notice of you and this august House about Maharaja Chandraketu who ruled more than 2,000 years ago in a place called Chandraketugarh in Berachampa near Deganga which is within my constituency. The pious River Ganges is supposed to have flown there and that place is known as Deganga. Maritime trade with Europe was carried out from there 2,000 years before. Seals and terracotta figurines have been found there. Our hon. Chief Minister Kumari Mamata Banerjee has formed a Heritage Commission and excavation had started under the aegis of the Archaeological Survey of India. We were expecting it to become a United Nations Heritage site. But the excavation work has stopped. So, I would like to bring this matter to the attention of the hon. Minister of Culture so that this place of heritage finds its place of prominence within our country.